

you continue to seek healing". The school's failure to protect the survivor and other potential victims is unacceptable.

They are not alone. Universities continue to inadequately deal with perpetrators across the country—from expulsions after graduation, to honor code violations that carry less of a penalty than plagiarism, to allowing perpetrators to directly cross-examine their victims about their past sexual history during the so-called investigative process. This kind of antiquated victim-blaming and -shaming must end.

That is why I am introducing the bipartisan Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency or HALT Campus Sexual Violence Act with my colleagues Congressmen TED POE and BRIAN FITZPATRICK to ensure that our colleges and universities do everything they can to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide the support survivors need and deserve.

WHAT TAX REFORM MEANS TO PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes this afternoon during this Special Order just to go over some highlights of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act as we continue to see very robust economic growth happening across the country, including in my district back in western Pennsylvania.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is the culmination of years spent listening to the stories of families back home who had nothing left over at the end of the month, of families who were struggling to save for retirement, pay off loans, and simply make ends meet. These stories are not just unique to my district, but they are coming in from all across America to the House of Representatives.

For too long, hardworking Americans toiled under a broken Tax Code filled with loopholes and special interest carve-outs. For most of the last decade, we had sluggish growth, stagnant wages, and limited opportunity across the country, including parts of Pennsylvania. When an economy is stagnant and not healthy, fewer job opportunities exist and workers' hard-earned wages often do not keep up with expenses.

Since being elected in 2012, I told my constituents that it did not have to be that way, that we could do better, that we deserve better. That is why 6 months ago, my colleagues and I passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and the President signed it into law.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act puts hardworking Americans first by allowing them to keep more of their paychecks, bringing businesses home from overseas, and creating that healthier economy.

To help workers keep more of their wages, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nearly doubles the standard deduction from \$6,350 per individual to \$12,000, and

from \$12,700 to \$24,000 for married couples, essentially doubling the amount of income that will not be subject to Federal income taxes.

It also expands the child tax credit to \$2,000 to help parents with the cost of raising kids, and adds a new credit to help provide care for elderly family members and adults with disabilities.

With these changes, the zero tax bracket increases significantly. Consequently, more Americans will be fully exempt from Federal income taxes, and they can keep more of their hard-earned wages.

Additionally, before the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the United States had the highest business tax rates in the industrialized world. Pennsylvania's combined Federal and State corporate tax rate stood at nearly 45 percent.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is removing a choke hold on our economy, decreasing for American corporations the tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. Consequently, the Pennsylvania combined rate now stands at 31 percent. This puts American companies in a better place, from a competitive standpoint, than their Chinese and Mexican counterparts.

Think about that. Prior to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, China was treating its companies better, Mexico was treating its companies better, with lower tax rates, and you saw investments going into those countries. Now, with the United States having lower tax rates, it is turning around.

This improvement, as well as other provisions such as the immediate expensing of new equipment, is causing companies to bring cash back from overseas and invest in America and hire workers and raise pay.

Under the new system, small business employers, known as pass-through enterprise—your partnerships, your LLCs—will be able to deduct 20 percent of their qualified business income, and the remaining income will be taxed at new and lower rates.

This translates into a significant tax cut for Main Street businesses, freeing up resources that will allow them to innovate and invest in their communities, hire workers, and increase wages.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also established a program that will ensure that the benefits of our booming economy reach areas that have been historically overlooked: the opportunity zone programs.

States are identifying areas that have struggled with high poverty and sluggish economic growth. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides tax incentives to direct private investment into and reinvigorate these communities. These communities have been starved of robust capital investment for decades. That is about to change.

In my district in western Pennsylvania, Governor Wolf from Pennsylvania has designated zones across the State. In western Pennsylvania, in my district, we have tracts that have been

designated in Beaver Falls, Midland, Johnstown, and Aliquippa. These are strong communities, Mr. Speaker, that once again can thrive thanks to the attractive incentives offered in the opportunity zone investment.

This is how it is going to work.

People may have an asset they have been holding for a long time and have a capital gain there. There is \$6 trillion locked up in capital gains across this country. If somebody wants to make an investment in a community where there has not been an investment, they can sell that asset, defer their capital gain, and invest in that fund. If they hold that in the fund for 10 years, they can defer the tax for that 10 years, get a step up in basis, and here is where it is great: they will not pay taxes on the appreciation of that investment in the opportunity zone.

Think about that capital that can flow into those communities and stay there and grow a business. That is private capital coming in, which is different from a government grant that might go in.

You have individuals who are looking to make investments. They want that investment to grow. They want that investment to do well. They want that investment to prosper in these communities. This is good news for those communities and good news for people who live there and can get jobs as a result of the investments in these opportunity zones.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is not just about simplifying our Tax Code. It is saving people money. It is about empowering people in Pennsylvania and throughout our Nation with hope and opportunity to better their lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

These reforms within the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are resulting in real benefits that are being experienced across the Nation. Already, 90 percent of American workers are receiving higher take-home pay under the new withholding tables. Four million workers have received bonuses, raises, or expanded benefits, and over 1 million new jobs have been created, including 160,000 manufacturing jobs.

For the first time in many years, there are more job openings than job seekers. Last month, the unemployment rate was 4 percent, nearly the lowest in decades, and the unemployment rates for African Americans and Hispanics were at historic lows. Fifty-eight percent of small business owners are confident about hiring new employees, and more Americans are optimistic about their future.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is bringing workers who were pushed to the sidelines during the previous years back into the labor force and restoring hope to everyday Americans. In June, 600,000 people entered the labor force, and 213,000 new jobs were added.

Businesses in my district are reinvesting in their employees, communities, and operations through bonuses,

higher wages and salaries, and increased charitable giving.

In western Pennsylvania, PNC Bank and BNY Mellon have raised their employees' minimum wages. Major companies, including UPS, FedEx, and Home Depot, that employ thousands of western Pennsylvanians, are providing bonuses and contributing more to their employees' retirement plans.

In fact, the Hampton Township Home Depot plans to create its own Success Sharing Program, in which hourly employees will be able to divide an estimated \$30,000 to \$40,000 among themselves semiannually, twice a year.

The Ellwood Group, a steel manufacturer, is planning a \$60 million addition to its New Castle plant and adding 25 new employees once it is fully operational.

Some who opposed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts have touted these meaningful benefits to U.S. workers as "crumbs." They have said that this law only helps the wealthy.

Let me ask this: Is the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission requiring 17 of its utility companies to give a monthly credit to their customers, saving \$320 million a year, crumbs?

Mr. Speaker, these aren't crumbs. These are seeds that are taking root and growing opportunities, creating jobs and the economy for all Americans to prosper.

Don't just take it from me. Take it from John in New Kensington, who is seeing more money in his paycheck and received a \$2,500 bonus.

Take it from Brian in Windber, who is receiving \$500 more a month; Michael in Aliquippa, who is bringing home an extra 4.5 percent in each paycheck; Edward in Westmoreland County, who is receiving \$128 more per paycheck. That is more than \$3,000 per year.

Take it from Flory in Westmoreland County, who said that, thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, her family will have more money to use towards their son's postgraduate education; and Heidi from Allegheny County, who wrote to tell me that "every penny we aren't taxed can go towards our other bills such as food, utilities, school loans, a mortgage, and clothing for our children. We were barely scraping by during the previous administration."

□ 1315

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is about empowering everyone, from the single mom in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, looking to buy her first home to the entrepreneur in Beaver Falls, working to achieve his or her American Dream.

When our people can fully develop their God-given skills and talents in a competitive economy without the government's excessive taxes and regulations, not only will our citizens' lives improve, but our country will grow stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 23, 2018, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5696. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, pursuant to Public Law 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5697. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report to Congress on International Monetary and Financial Policies, pursuant to Sec. 1701 of the International Financial Institutions Act, as amended by Sec. 583 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5698. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Second Triennial Report to Congress on Biofuels and the Environment, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7545 note; Public Law 110-140, Sec. 204(a); (121 Stat. 1529); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5699. A letter from the Assistant Director, OSD SEMO, Department of Defense, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5700. A letter from the Assistant Director, OSD SEMO, Department of Defense, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5701. A letter from the Assistant Director, OSD SEMO, Department of Defense, transmitting a notification of a vacancy and a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5702. A letter from the Assistant Director, SEMO, Department of Defense (Army), transmitting a notification of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, discontinuation of service in acting role, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5703. A letter from the Assistant Director, OSD SEMO, Department of Defense (Navy), transmitting a notification of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5704. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2017-18 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 160808696-7010-02] (RIN: 0648-BH47) received July 13,

2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5705. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; 2017 Purse Seine FAD Fishery Closure [Docket No.: 160205084-6510-02] (RIN: 0648-XF873) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5706. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's announcement of a valid specified fishing agreement — Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2017 U.S. Territorial Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits for the Territory of American Samoa (RIN: 0648-XF156) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5707. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2018 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack [Docket No.: 1206013412-2517-02] (RIN: 0648-XG110) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5708. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; 2018 Commercial Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XG173) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5709. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Commercial Trip Limit Increase in the Atlantic Southern Zone [Docket No.: 160426363-7275-02] (RIN: 0648-XG009) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5710. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2017-2018 Commercial Hook-and-Line Closure for King Mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico Southern Zone [Docket No.: 160426363-7275-02] (RIN: 0648-XG034) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5711. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North Atlantic Swordfish Fishery [Docket No.: 120627194-3657-02] (RIN: 0648-XF817) received July 13, 2018, pursuant to 5